

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to discourage your support of the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. The merger will create a monopoly driving up costs and decreasing customer service. The propaganda from the merger's supporters that it will increase competition is an insult to the intelligence of anyone with a basic understanding of economics. It will not increase competition, it will create a monopoly, which will drive up costs and leave no incentive for the new company to care about customer service. The only way to increase competition is by having more companies to choose from, not less.

For example, I'm a DIRECTV subscriber. I chose DIRECTV because of its superior channel line up. DishNetwork has far better customer service. In the future, if I don't like DTV customer service, I'll switch to Dish. Luckily, I have a choice, while the supporters are trying to eliminate that choice. With a monopoly, there will be no choice. Instead of a merger, there should be more satellite TV companies started up, which is the only true way to increase competition.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Brian Hood  
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Fort Collins, CO 80528